

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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NESCO

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TAGS: AORG, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO HEADQUARTERS COMMITTEE MEETING

1. 63RD SESSION OF HEADQUARTERS COMMITTEE TOOK PLACE MORNING JULY 23. COMMITTEE WAS ABLE TO COMPLETE ALL ITEMS ON ITS AGENDA DURING THE MORNING MEETING.

2. AFTER ADOPTING PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ITS DRAFT REPORT ON 62ND SESSION, COMMITTEE HEARD REPORTS BY DG MAHAU ON HIS CONVERSATION JULY 19 WITH OLIVIER GUICHARD, FRENCH MINISTER OF EQUIPMENT, HOUSING AND TOURISM. WITH REGARD TO SIXTH BUILDING, GUICHARD REPORTEDLY ASSURED DG THAT FRENCH GOVT WAS UNDERTAKING NEW PROCEDURE OF EXPROPRIATION ON URGENT BASIS FOR SECOND PARCEL OF 4000 SQUARE METERS AND THAT DECREE DECLARING THIS PARCEL TO BE OF PUBLIC UTILITY WOULD BE SIGNED IN NEAR FUTURE. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, GUICHARD FELT THAT , BARRING NEW LEGAL COMPLICATIONS, SECOND PARCEL COULD BE TURNED OVER TO UNESCO BY PARIL 1, 1973.

3. DG SAID THAT HIS CONVERSATION WITH GUICHARD WAS SUFFICIENTLY ENCOURAGING FOR HIM TO SUBMIT TO THE COMMITTEE THE FOLLOWING PROPOSALS RE SIXTH BUILDING
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WHICH HAD BEEN WORKED OUT BY SECRETARIAT AND ARCHITECT:

A. ENTIRE BUILDING WOULD NOW BE CONSTRUCTED SIX METERS FURTHER IN NORTH-EAST DIRECTION SO THAT SEVEN OF THE EIGHT TOWERS COMPRISING BUILDING WOULD BE LOCATED ON FIRST PARCEL ALREADY APPROPRIATED.

B. EARTHWORK AND FOUNDATIONS ON FIRST PARCEL WOULD BEGIN DECEMBER 15, 1973 AND WOULD BE COMPLETED BY APRIL 15, 1973.

C. IF SECOND PARCEL IS TURNED OVER TO UNESCO BY APRIL 1, 1973, ENTIRE BUILDING OF EIGHT TOWERS WILL BE CONSTRUCTED AS ORIGINALLY PLANNED.

D. IF NEW LEGAL PROBLEMS DEVELOP IN CONNECTION WITH EXPROPRIATION OF SECOND PARCEL AND APRIL 1, 1973 DATE CANNOT BE MET, DG PROPOSES TO ABANDON CONSTRUCTION OF THE EIGHT TOWER AND TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF FLOORS ON THREE OF THE TOWERS TO BE LOCATED ON FIRST PARCEL IN ORDER TO PROVIDE APPROXIMATELY SAME AMOUNT OF WORKING SPACE.

4. RE FINANCING, DG STATED THAT BECAUSE OF DELAY FOR START OF CONSTRUCTION FROM APRIL 1 TO DECEMBER 15, 1973, COST SIXTH BUILDING WOULD HAVE TO BE INCREASED BY SOME SIX MILLION FRANCS. IN ORDER TO REMAIN WITHIN CEILING OF 67 MILLION FRANCS APPROVED BY GC, DG PROPOSED FOLLOWING STEPS;

A. ELIMINATION OF 57 PARKING SPACES IN UNDER GROUND GARAGE.

B. POSTPONEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION OF THREE CONFERENCE ROOMS WHICH WERE TO BE BUILT SEPARATELY FROM MAIN BUILDING AND WHICH COULD BE BUILT AT LATER DATE.

C. BECAUSE MANY MORE FIRMS THAN WERE ANTICIPATED HAVE INDICATED THEIR DESIRE TO BID FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SIXTH BUILDING, DG BELIEVED THAT HEALTHY SPIRIT OF COMPETITION WOULD PREVAIL AND PRICES QUOTED WOULD BE LOWER THAN ORIGINALLY ESTIMATED.

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5. WITH THESE ANTICIPATED SAVINGS, DG BELIEVED THAT, IF SECOND PARCEL BECAME AVAILABLE BY APRIL 1, 1973 (ALTERNATIVE CONTAINED PARA 3(C) ABOVE), ENTIRE PROJECT COULD BE COMPLETED WITHIN CEILING APPROVED BY GC. IF NOT, HE FEARED THAT PROJECT COULD NOT BE COMPLETED WITHOUT ADDITIONAL CREDITS, AS HAD BEEN THE CASE WITH 4TH BUILDING.

6. ENSUING DISCUSSION REVEALED STRONG SUPPORT ON PART OF MOST COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR DG'S SUGGESTIONS. SOME (FRG, AUSTRALIA) COMPLAINED THAT THEY HAD HAD NO OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT THEIR GOVERNMENTS. ROMANIAN AMBASSADOR (HIMSELF AN ARCHITECT BY PROFESSION) WARNED THAT ESTHETIC ASPECT OF BUILDING WOULD BE GREATLY IMPAIRED IF 8TH TOWER WAS ELIMINATED. FRENCH REP CONFIRMED POSITION OF FRENCH GOVERNMENT AS PRESENTED BY DG.

7. AT END OF DISCUSSION, CHAIRMAN CIRCULATED DRAFT RESOLUTION ENDORSING DG'S PROPOSAL FOR 6TH BUILDING. RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED BY VOTE OF 15 - 1 (US) - (FRG). IN EXPLAINING HIS VOTE, US REP REFEREED TO LONGSTANDING OPPOSITION OF HIS GOVERNMENT TO CONSTRUCTION OF 6TH BUILDING BUT STATED THAT THIS OPPOSITION SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS LACK OF APPRECIATION OFR EFFORT MADE BY SECRETARIAT AND ARCHITECT IN ATTEMPTING TO SOLVE PROBLEMS CREATED BY DELAYS IN EXPROPRIATION PROCEDURES. FRG REP EXPLAINED HIS ABSENTION ON GROUNDS THAT HE HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT. TEXT OF RESOLUTION SEPTEL.

7. RE "LONG-TERM SOLUTION", DG STATED THAT GUICHARD HAD AGREED TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT POSSIBILITY OF EVENTUALLY REGROUPING UNESCO HEADQUARTERS WITHIN PRESENT QUAI JAVEL PROPERTY PREVIOUSLY OCCUPIED BY CITROEN FACTORY AND NOW PROPERTY OF MUNICIPALITY OF PARIS. HEADQUARTERS COMMITTEE MERELY NOTED DG'S REMARKS WITH RESPECT TO LONG-TERM SOLUTION. RE PARA 2 REF (?), AMB CUEVAS, CHAIRMAN HEADQUARTERS COMMITTEE LATER INFORMED PERMREP THAT SINCE THERE WERE NOT LIKELY TO BE CONCRETE PROPOSALS FOR "LONG-TERM SOLUTION" FOR A LONG TIME, HE HAD ABANDONED IDEA OF INSCRIBING THIS ITEM ON AGENDA OF EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF GENERAL CONFERENCE.

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9. AT END OF MEETING, AMB REZA OF IRAN INFORMED COMMITTEE OF LETTER HE HAD RECEIVED FROM MRS. FOBES, WIFE OF DDG AND PRESIDENT UNESCO WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION, EXPRESSING HOPE THAT IN ALLOCATING SPACE IN 6TH BUILDING AT FUTURE SESSIONS, COMMITTEE WOULD TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION NEEF FOR A DAY CARE NURSERY AND KINDERGARTEN. COMMITTEE TOOK NOTE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

10. COMMITTEE DECIDED TO HOLD ITS NEXT SESSION AT END OF OCTOBER 1973.IRWIN

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